

Human Growth and Development

Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in Human Growth and Development (Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence) covers material that is generally taught in a one-semester introductory course in child psychology, child development, or developmental psychology, with primary emphasis on infancy, early childhood, and middle childhood. An understanding of the major theories and research related to physical, cognitive, social, personality, and emotional development is required, as is the ability to apply this knowledge. The exam is 90 minutes long and includes approximately 90 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Each question on the exam requires the student to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terminology
- Understanding of generally accepted concepts and principles
- Understanding of theories and recurrent developmental issues
- Applications of knowledge to particular problems or situations

The exam questions are drawn from the 13 major categories listed below. For each category, several key words and phrases identify topics with which candidates should be familiar. The approximate percent of the exam devoted to each category is also shown below.

Approximate Percent of Examination

10%	Theories of development
5%	Research strategies and methodologies
10%	Biological development
7%	Perceptual and sensorimotor development
12%	Cognitive development
8%	Language development
4%	Intelligence
10%	Social development
8%	Family and society
8%	Personality and emotions
8%	Learning
5%	Schooling and intervention
5%	Atypical development

Approximate Percent of Examination 10% Theories of development

Behavioral-learning
Cognitive-developmental
Psychoanalytic

5% Research strategies and methodology

Experimental
Longitudinal
Cross-sectional
Correlational
Case study

10% Biological development

Prenatal influences
Perinatal influences
Physical growth and maturation
Development of nervous system
Motor development
Heredity, genetics, genetic counseling
Nutritional influences
Sexual maturation
Influences of drugs

7% Perceptual and sensorimotor development

Vision
Hearing
Sensorimotor activities
Critical periods
Sensory deprivation

12% Cognitive development

Piaget
Information-processing (e.g., attention, memory)
Concept formation
Cognitive styles and creativity
Play
Environmental influences on cognitive development

8% Language development

Vocalization and sounds
Development of grammar
Semantic development
Language and thought
Referential communication
Environmental influences on language development

4% Intelligence

Concepts of intelligence
Heredity and environment
Developmental stability and change

10% Social development

Attachment
Aggression
Prosocial behavior
Moral development
Sex roles
Peer relationships

8% Family and society

Parent-child relationships
Cross-cultural and ethnic variations
Social class influences
Sibling and birth-order influences
Influences of divorce, single-parent families
Child abuse, parental neglect
Mass media influences

8% Personality and emotions

Temperament
Self-control
Achievement strivings
Locus of control
Development of emotions

8% Learning

Habituation
Classical conditioning
Operant conditioning
Observational learning and imitation
Discrimination and generalization

5% Schooling and intervention

Applications of developmental principles within the school
Preschool, day care
Intervention programs and services
Training in parenting skills

5% Atypical development

Giftedness
Consequences of hereditary diseases
Learning disabilities, handicapping conditions
Retardation

Hyperactivity
Asocial behavior, fears, phobias, obsessions
Antisocial behavior, delinquency
Autism, childhood psychosis

Study Resources

To prepare for the Human Growth and Development exam, you should study the contents of at least one textbook used in child development and child psychology courses at the college level. These textbooks can be found in most college bookstores. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section. Because they may vary somewhat in content, approach, and emphasis, you are advised to consult more than one textbook on the major topics. You may find it helpful to supplement your reading with books and articles listed in the bibliographies found in most developmental psychology textbooks. The Internet is another resource you should explore

Parents and others who work with children may have gained some preparation for this test through experience. However, knowledge of the basic facts, theories, and principles of child psychology and development is necessary to provide background for taking the exam.